

Message Text

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 /027 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/F BTREADWELL
APPROVED BY EB/IFD/ OIA:RJSMITH
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R 150620Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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FOR ECON/COMM OFFICER FROM OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: VISIT OF KENYA MINISTER TO PROMOTE COFFEE
PROGRAMS

1. MR. SOLOMON M. MASEMBWA, KENYAN CITIZEN WHO IS RESIDENT
IN UNITED STATES AND SELLING INSURANCE FOR NEW YORK LIFE,
CALLED ON OPIC TODAY AND SPOKE WITH FINANCE OFFICER TREAD-
WELL. SUBJECT SAID HE WAS AN UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
HON. PAUL NGEI MINISTER OF COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT, GOK,
AND THAT NGEI HAD ASKED HIM TO SET UP APPOINTMENTS WITH
U.S. COMPANIES DURING NGEI'S UPCOMING TRIP TO USA ON BROAD
TOPIC OF DEVELOPMENT OF COFFEE INDUSTRY.

2. MISSION TO USA WOULD BE LOW PROFILE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE
SALES OF KENYA COFFEE, MEET WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN, AND TOUR
PLANT SITES. KENYA DESIRES TO INCREASE COFFEE PRODUCTION
AND EXPAND SALES TO THE USA. MINISTER NGEI WANTS TO TALK TO
COFFEE BUYERS, COMPANIES PROCESSING COFFEE, COMPANIES MANU-
FACTURING FARM AND IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT, CANNERS, AND
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POTENTIAL JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS FOR INVESTMENT IN COFFEE

INDUSTRY AT ALL LEVELS.

3. TREADWELL EXPLAINED THAT OPIC WOULD BE PLEASED TO GIVE MINISTER NGEI A BRIEFING ON OPIC PROGRAMS BUT COULD NOT COORDINATE VISIT ESPECIALLY "HEN REQUEST DID NOT COME THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS.

4. WHEN ASKED WHY REQUEST DID NOT COME THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS, MASEMBWA SAID MINISTER WANTED TO AVOID HEAVY DEMANDS OF PROTOCOL AND WANTED TO MAXIMISE TIME FOR MEETINGS WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN. MINISTER IS BUSINESSMAN HIMSELF AND A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MASEMBWA. OSTENSIBLY MINISTER NGEI IS COMING TO USA ON OCTOBER 15 FOR THREE WEEKS TO OBSERVE U.S. ELECTIONS. MASEMBWA WAS REFERRED TO OPIC BY COOPERATIVE RESOURCES COMMITTEE. HE DID NOT REALIZE OPIC WAS A U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

5. OPIC SUGGESTS ECON/COMM OFFICER DISCUSS WITH BONNY HENDERSON, OPIC PROJECT FINANCE OFFICER FOR AFRICA, WHO IS VISITING POST. OPIC MAY WISH TO ASSIST MINISTER'S VISIT FURTHER IF HIS GOALS COINCIDE WITH OPIC PROMOTION EFFORT OF U.S. INVESTMENT IN KENYA. IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP TO OPIC SPONSORED KENYA COUNTRY MEETING, AND FINANCE OFFICER PARNELL RESIDENCE IN KENYA. ALSO, COULD ASSIST OPIC GOAL OF PROMOTING COOPERATIVES. DECONTROL FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 14, 1976. ROBINSON

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